

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 THE HA 03476 121030Z

12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-19

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 SS-20 NSC-07 /131 W

----- 097448

R 120907Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3962

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 3476

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, NATO, NL

SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS DEFENSE PLAN

REF: STATE 145784

1. QUOTE ATTRIBUTED TO PM DEN UYL IS IN FACT FAIRLY ACCURATE PARA-
PHRASE OF HIS REMARKS IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION PUT BY AN INTERVIEWER

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 THE HA 03476 121030Z

ON DUTCH TV. EMBASSY POUCHING FULL TEXT OF INTERVIEW TO DEPARTMENT
(EUR/WE, BEIGEL).

2. FOLLOWING IS SPECIFIC EXCHANGE WHICH RESULTED IN "QUOTE" IN REFTEL:

INTERVIEWER - "YOU SAID: NOT UNILATERAL. WELL, THE QUESTION IS WILL ALL SOCIALIST MINISTERS ALSO SAY THAT. YOU ALSO KNOW THAT IN YOUR CIRCLE THERE ARE DIFFERENT THOUGHTS ABOUT THAT."

DEN UYL - "OH NO, ON THIS POINT THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE OF OPINION AT ALL, AND THERE NEVER HAS BEEN. IT IS, I THINK, TRUE THAT THERE IS A MISUNDERSTANDING ON WHETHER THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE NETHERLANDS ARMED FORCES WOULD BE A MATTER SOLELY DEPENDENT ON A FAVORABLE RESULT OF THOSE TALKS. NO. IF THOSE TALKS SHOULD FAIL, THE NETHERLANDS WILL HAVE ITS FREEDOM AGAIN AND CAN JUDGE WHETHER THOSE PLANS WILL BE CARRIED THROUGH OR NOT. THE RESTRICTION WE HAVE ACCEPTED APPLIES SOLELY TO THE DURATION OF THE TALKS AND IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE NETHERLANDS CANNOT TAKE DECISIONS INDEPENDENTLY AFTER THE TALKS....HOWEVER, THERE IS AN AGREEMENT WHICH IS ALSO UNDERSTANDABLE. LAST YEAR, BEFORE THE START OF THE TALKS IN VIENNA, IT WAS SAID THAT WE MUST MAKE COMMITMENTS....IT WAS DECIDED THEN, AND IT IS CLEARLY REASONABLE DURING THE TALKS, THAT WE WOULD NOT WITHDRAW READY TROOPS. BUT IN PRINCIPLE THAT DOES NOT STAND IN THE WAY OF OUR PLANS."

3. DURING A JULY 9 PRESS CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS THE JUST-PUBLISHED DEFENSE NOTE (THE HAGUE 3445), MOD VREDELING REAFFIRMED THAT ARMY STRENGTH WOULD NOT BE REDUCED AS LONG AS MBFR TALKS CONTINUE. HE THEN SAID: "IF THE TALKS SHOULD FAIL, THERE WILL BE A NEW SITUATION, AND WE MUST AGAIN CONSIDER WHAT WE WILL DO WITH OUR DEFENSE."

4. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT GON, AT LEAST ITS SOCIALIST WING, IS NOT PREPARED TO COMMIT ITSELF TO CURRENT TROOP LEVELS BEYOND MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. THE THREE LEFT-WING PARTIES IN PRESENT DUTCH COALITION GOVERNMENT ARE PLEDGED TO REDUCE DEFENSE EXPENDITURES AND TO REORDER BUDGETARY PRIORITIES. BEFORE DEFENSE NOTE WAS PUBLISHED, PM DEN UYL SAID THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE FROM NATO OR FROM HIS OWN LABOR PARTY COUNCIL. FACED WITH PRESSURE FROM WITHIN THERE OWN PARTY, DEN UYL AND VREDELING,
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 THE HA 03476 121030Z

AS POLITICAL PRAGMATISTS, CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO PUBLICLY GO BEYOND DEN UYL'S STATEMENT THAT WITH A FAILURE IN MBFR THE GON WOULD "JUDGE WHETHER THOSE PLANS ARE CARRIED THROUGH OR NOT."
TANGUY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, TELEVISION COMMENTS, MILITARY PLANS, TROOP REDUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974THEHA03476
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740186-1074
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740752/aaaabsdt.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 145784
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <13 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NETHERLANDS DEFENSE PLAN
TAGS: MCAP, NL, NATO, (DEN UYL, JOHANNES MARTEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005